

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data communication switch receives packets having first priorities, generates second priorities as a function of the first priorities, prioritizes selected ones of the plurality of packets as a function of the second priorities and  
5 transmits the plurality of packets having the second priorities. The first priorities may be inbound Std. 802.1Q tag priorities and the second priorities may be regenerated Std. 802.1Q tag priorities. Priority selection may be communicated in the switch through the expedient of packet marking. Marks may be instantiated in the packets prior to subjecting the packets to prioritization on the switch and  
10 removed from the packets prior to transmitting the packets from the switch. The switch may be arranged to prioritize selected ones of 802.1Q-complaint tagged packets based on a tag priority while preserving tag priority signaling for all such tagged packets.

15